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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS-HQ-MB-2018-N159; FF09M13200, FXMB12330900000 (189); OMB Control Number 1018-0135]**

### **Agency Information Collection Activities; Electronic Federal Duck Stamp Program**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Information Collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing to renew an information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by mail to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803 (mail); or by email to [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 1018-0135 in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov), or by telephone at (703) 358-2503.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are soliciting comments on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is the collection necessary to the proper functions of the Service; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Service enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Service minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

*Abstract:* On March 16, 1934, Congress passed, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a et seq.). Popularly known as the Duck Stamp Act, it required all migratory waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to buy a Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) annually. The stamps are a vital tool for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated by the sale of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Federal Duck Stamp is one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated and is a highly effective way to conserve America's natural resources. Besides serving as a hunting license and a conservation tool, a current year's Federal Duck Stamp also serves as an entrance pass for national wildlife refuges where admission is charged. Duck Stamps and products that bear stamp images are also popular collector items.

The Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109–266) required the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a 3-year pilot program, under which States could issue electronic Federal Duck Stamps. This pilot program is now permanent with the passage of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (Pub. L. 113–239). Anyone, regardless of State residence, is able to purchase an electronic Duck Stamp through any State that participates in the program. The electronic stamp is valid for up to 45 days from the date of purchase and is available for immediate use while customers wait to receive the actual stamp in the mail. After 45 days, customers must carry the signed

physical Federal Duck Stamp while hunting or to gain free access to national wildlife refuges.

Eight States participated in the pilot. At the end of the pilot, we provided a report to Congress outlining the successes of the program. The program improved public participation by increasing the ability of the public to obtain required Federal Duck Stamps.

Under our authorities in 16 U.S.C. 718 *et seq.*, we continued the Electronic Duck Stamp Program in the eight States that participated in the pilot. Currently, the expanded program includes 25 States. Several other States have indicated interest in participating, and we have had requests to continue to expand the program by inviting the remaining eligible State fish and wildlife agencies to apply to participate. Interested States must submit an application (FWS Form 3–2341). We will use the information provided in the application to determine a State's eligibility to participate in the program. Information includes, but is not limited to:

- Information verifying the current systems the State uses to sell hunting, fishing, and other associated licenses and products.
- Applicable State laws, regulations, or policies that authorize the use of electronic systems to issue licenses.
- Example and explanation of the codes the State proposes to use to create and endorse the unique identifier for the individual to whom each stamp is issued.

- Mockup copy of the printed version of the State's proposed electronic stamp, including a description of the format and identifying features of the licensee to be specified on the stamp.
- Description of any fee the State will charge for issuance of an electronic stamp.
- Description of the process the State will use to account for and transfer the amounts collected by the State that are required to be transferred under the program.
- Manner by which the State will transmit electronic stamp customer data.

Each State approved to participate in the program must provide the following information on a weekly basis, to the Service approved stamp distribution company, in order for them to issue the actual stamp within the allotted 45-day period:

- Full name (first, middle, last and any prefixes/suffixes), and complete mailing address of each individual that purchases an electronic stamp from the State.
- Date of e-stamp purchase.

*Title of Collection:* Electronic Federal Duck Stamp Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 1018–0135.

*Form Number:* FWS Form 3–2341.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* State fish and wildlife agencies.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

*Frequency of Collection:* One time for applications, and an average of once every 9 days per respondent for fulfillment reports.

*Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:* None.

| <b>Requirement</b> | <b>Annual No. of Respondents</b> | <b>Total Annual Responses</b> | <b>Completion Time per Response (Hours)</b> | <b>Total Annual Burden Hours</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Application        | 6                                | 6                             | 40  | 240                              |
| Fulfillment Report | 33                               | 1,353                         | 1   | 1,353                            |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>39</b>                        | <b>1,359</b>                  |   | <b>1,593</b>                     |

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Dated: March 12, 2019.

Madonna Baucum,

*Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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